

Kingdom of God Part 1

Steve Berger April 3, 2016

The Kingdom of God

- What is the Kingdom? trouble and division happen when one aspect is isolated
- Priority of the Kingdom- notice the frequency and emphasis Jesus placed on it
- Seizing the Kingdom- the necessary attitude to have, to live in the Kingdom

What is the Kingdom? *There are three components, and it is important to understand all three.*

The Kingdom of God is the Rule and Reign of God...

His sovereignty, dominion

- **Psalm 103:19**

The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

- over all, this age, age to come, angels, demons, men, heaven, hell, earth!

- **Psalm 145:11-13**

They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

- glory is power, majesty, mighty acts, everlasting, all generations — God rules and reigns forever — that will never change!

The Kingdom of God is a future realm where the fullness of Kingdom glory happens...

Commonly referred to as heaven — notice the atmosphere, characteristics

- **Isaiah 2:4, 11:4-9**

He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore... But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

- peace, righteousness, end of wickedness, faithfulness, harmony, safety, no pain or destruction
- **Revelation 21:3-5**
And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”
- God nearer than ever, tears wiped, no death, sorrow, crying, pain — GONE!
All things new!!!
- **1 Peter 1:4**
... to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
 - **incorruptible**- no decay, **undefiled**- no sin, **unfading**- no familiarity!
- **2 Peter 1:11**
... an abundant entrance will be supplied to you into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - due to all the future realm of God is — our entrance into it is called abundant!

So important — *We must understand the glory of the future Kingdom if we are going to pray with expectancy and excitement “Thy Kingdom come, on earth, as it is in heaven.”* Leads to our 3rd point of Kingdom...

**The Kingdom of God is the realm of God we enter now,
through our new birth,
in order to experience the blessing of God's reign**

- **John 3:3**
Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 - when born-again you get to see, experience the Kingdom of God. You've been moved from darkness and blindness into light and sight, right now!
- **Colossians 1:13-14**
He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
 - God has delivered us from darkness, conveyed us into Kingdom of the Son of His love, redeemed and forgiven us, right now!
- **2 Peter 1:3-4**
His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- divine power, given all things for life and godliness, exceedingly great precious promises, partakers of divine nature, escaped corruption of world, right now!

The Priority of the Kingdom of God

- *when you see all the that the Kingdom is, no wonder Jesus made it a priority*
- **started ministry**
Matthew 4:23
And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.
 - preaching good news of the Kingdom, it is good news, God is now working among men with future Kingdom power to save, heal and transform their lives now, Jesus proved it by healing all kinds of sicknesses, diseases, possessions, etc.
- **continued ministry**
Matthew 6:10
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 - first petition in the prayer, after praise—future Kingdom come now on earth
- **Matthew 6:13**
... for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
 - last declaration of prayer, the Kingdom is that important
- **ended earthly ministry**
Acts 1:3
He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.
 - The Kingdom of God was given a place of priority in the ministry of Jesus, it must be given a place of priority in our lives as well!

Seizing the Kingdom of God

- *aggressive attitude apprehending Kingdom*
- **Matthew 11:12**
And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.
 - demons fight aggressively against; believers need to fight aggressively for
- **Luke 16:16**
The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.
 - seizing, crowding into, fighting aggressively against

- **Matthew 6:33**

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- seek *first*, not second after other worldly concerns

PRAYER

**That we would become Kingdom people,
understanding it, prioritizing it, seizing it,
birthing in us a confidence and expectancy
to see future Kingdom power NOW!**

Discussion Questions

1. What kind of trouble is caused in the kingdom, when one aspect of it is isolated or emphasized? What would some of those elements be?
2. Read Psalm 145: 11-13. What perspective does that put on our current political wrangling?
3. What characteristics of heaven do you most look forward to?
4. Read 2 Peter 1:4. What hope does this give us for the physical “woes” of natural aging, whether at 30 or 80?
5. How do we press in and have an aggressive attitude toward apprehending the Kingdom of God?
6. What will *you* do to up your game — to press in and seize more of the Kingdom for yourself?